

# Poisonous Plants

**The Bureau of Child Care Licensing has compiled the following information about the most common poisonous plants found in Utah. This document is based on information from Poison Control.**

# Stinging Nettle



**Plant Description:** 1-2 feet tall with a distinctive yellow, widely spreading root. Both the leaves and the stems are covered with brittle, hollow, silky hairs.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Leafs and Stems

**Type of Toxicity:** Touch

**Signs of Poisoning:** Burning sensation causing skin irritation and rash.

**First Aid:** Quickly wash the affected area. Rubbing the affected are with mud and allowing to dry before brushing it clean can relieve some of the burning. Apply ice to the affected area can relieve some of the itch. Smearing the affected area with a paste of Baking Soda and water rinsing after a few minutes may also relieve some of the burning and itching.

# Poison Ivy



**Plant Description:** Low shrub not exceeding 4 feet in height. Grows well in shady wooded areas.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Poisonous sap is found in the roots, stems, leaves and fruit.

**Type of Toxicity:** Touch

**Signs of Poisoning:** Severe itching , skin irritation and rash. The rash can develop into large oozing sores.

**First Aid:** Wash with soap and water before the reaction occurs. Epsom salts or soda may help relieve some of the skin irritations. If a rash occurs a prescription medication should be prescribed for 12 to 15 days.

# Oleander



**Plant Description:** Green shrub that sometimes grows to the size of small tree. The leaves are 8 to 10 inches long. The flowers are showy and approximately 1 to 3 inches in diameter. The flowers grow in clusters at the end of the branches and can be found in white, pink or red.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Leafs and Flowers

**Type of Toxicity:** Touch and Ingestion.

**Signs of Poison:** Ingestion of just a small amount can be fatal. The hear rate slows down, the blood pressure is lowered and the body becomes lethargic. Symptoms can also include drowsiness, tremors or shaking. Oleander sap can cause skin irritations and severe eye inflammation.

**First Aid:** Immediate medical professional help is required.

# Poison Oak



**Plant Description:** Green leafy vine that grows close to the ground.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Leafs

**Type of Toxicity:** Touch

**Signs of Poison:** Skin irritation and rash. If ingested the same symptoms would be found on inside of the body as there are on the outside.

**First Aid:** Wash with soap and water before the reaction occurs. Epsom salts or soda may help relieve some of the skin irritations. If a rash occurs a prescription medication should be prescribed for 12 to 15 days.

# Mushrooms



**Plant Description:** Mushrooms grow in cool, damp ground. They have a large stem and an umbrella like top. They come in many different colors and sizes. It is very difficult to tell the difference between a poisons mushroom and one that is edible.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Entire Plant

**Type of Toxicity:** Ingestion

**Signs of Poison:** Symptoms can range from hours of vomiting to lethal liver or kidney failure. Some people get hallucinations from ingesting toxic mushrooms.

**First Aid:** Immediate medical attention is required. Do not wait for symptoms to appear before contacting medical personnel. Sometimes the liver can shut down without a person having any other symptoms.

# Toadstools



**Plant Description:** Toadstools grow in cool, damp ground. They have a stem with a large flat umbrella like top. They come in many different colors and sizes. It is very difficult to tell the difference between a poisons toadstools and those that are edible.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Entire Plant

**Type of Toxicity:** Ingestion

**Signs of Poison:** Symptoms can range from hours of vomiting to lethal liver or kidney failure. Some people get hallucinations from ingesting toxic toadstools.

**First Aid:** Immediate medical attention is required.



# Jimsonweed



**Plant Description:** Annual herb which grows up to 5 feet tall. Leaves are ovate, 3 to 8 inches long with green or purplish coloration with the edges serrated. The flowers are white or purple . The seeds are contained in a hard spiny capsule, about 2 inches in diameter. When ripe the capsule will split into four parts lengthwise when ripe.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Entire Plant

**Type of Toxicity:** Ingestion

**Signs of Poison:** Symptoms start out with a dry mouth, blurred vision, difficult swallowing and speaking the heart rate and blood pressure will then increase and then the person will go into a coma.

**First Aid:** Immediate medical attention is required.



# Castor Bean



**Plant Description:** A shrub-like herb with large, long-stemmed leaves. It has spiny, clustered seed pods that contain a white seed that looks like a bean.

**Dangerous Parts of Plant:** Entire Plant

**Type of Toxicity:** Ingestion

**Signs of Poison:** Only a small amount can cause poisoning. It causes the human digestive tract to convulse causing major diarrhoea. It can cause severe shock to the body that can result in death.

**First Aid:** Immediate medical attention is required.

# Poisonous Plants and Safe Plants

(From: "Caring for Our Children," page 434, Appendix U)

1. Keep all plants away from small children.
2. Teach children never to eat unknown plants.
3. Different parts of the plant are poisonous.
4. These lists are not complete.
5. Phone the Poison Control Center before treating a child who has eaten a plant.

Plants highlighted in **yellow** are the most dangerous plants that are common in Utah

## Poisonous Plants

Flower Garden Plants	Trees and Shrubs	Wild Plants	House Plants
Autumn Crocus	Black Locust	Belladonna	Bird of Paradise
Bleeding Heart	Boxwood	Bittersweet	<b>Castor Bean</b>
Chrysanthemum	Chokecherry	Buttercups	Dumbcane (Dieffenbachia)
Daffodil	Elderberry	Indian Hemp	English Ivy
Four-o'clocks	English Yew	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Holly
Foxglove	Ground Ivy	<b>Jimson Weed</b>	Jequirty Bean (Rosary Pea)
Hyacinth	Horse Chestnut, Buckeye	Larkspur	Jerusalem Cherry
Hydrangea	Juniper	Monkshood	Mistletoe
Iris	Oak Tree	<b>Mushrooms (Some)</b>	Mother-in-Law
Jonquil	Water Hemlock	Nightshade	<b>Oleander</b>
Lily of the Valley	Yew	Poison Hemlock	Philodendron
Morning Glory	<b>Vegetable Garden Plants</b>	<b>Poison Ivy</b>	Poinsettia
Narcissus	Asparagus	<b>Poison Oak</b>	Rhododendron
Snow on the Mountain	Sprouts and Green Parts of Potato	Poison Sumac	
	Rhubarb Leaves	Poison Tobacco	
	Green parts of Tomato	Skunk Cabbage	
		<b>Stinging Nettle</b>	
		<b>Toadstools</b>	

## Safe Plants

African Violet	Aluminum Plant	Anthurium, Taliflower	Aphelandra
Baby Tears	Begonia	Blood Leaf	Boston Fern
Christman Cactus	Coleus	Corn Plant	Dracaena
Emerald Ripple, Peperomia	Hen-and-Chickens	Hoya	Impatiens
Jade Plant	Parlor Palm	Peperomia	Prayer Plant
Rubber Plant	Schefflera	Sensitive Plant	Snake Plant
Spider Plant	Swedish Ivy	Velvet, Purple Passion	Wandering Jew
Wax Plant	Weeping Fig	Yellow Day Lilt	